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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Leather Products Factory at Domzale
(Slovenia)

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1. The Domzale Leather Products Factory was originally owned by Okrslijer and Zorn and before the late war produced suitcases, trunks, handbags, and similar merchandise. It was nationalized after 1945 and, since May 1947, has been producing exclusively for military purposes. It now makes leather knapsacks, shoulder straps, ammunition belts and boxes, and leather accessories for artillery. The plant consists of three adjoining buildings, each 60 x 20 x 10 meters in size, and a separate depot south of the plant in which raw materials and finished products are stored.
2. Between 1945 and 1947 the Domzale plant received most of its raw materials from stocks left behind by the German Army and, later, from stocks supplied by UNRRA. These stocks, however, were exhausted by September 1947, and the plant was forced to close for the following three months. On 16 and 17 December 1947, the Domzale plant received five carloads of hides and hemp from Poland, Bulgaria and Croatia, and since that time, the plant has operated continuously. Once a week a Yugoslav military mission arrives from Ljubljana to receive products which are loaded on military trucks and transported to the Ljubljana QM depot. Since February 1948, most of the finished products have been shipped by rail to the central QM depot in Belgrade (Uprava Vojne Odece).
3. The plant now employs 300 workers. The managing director is Alojzije Pirc, 33 years old, born in Domzale and a long-time member of the Communist Party.
4. Attached to the Domzale plant, in the capacity of control officials, are three members of the Slovene federal UDB (names unknown); there are also nine Domzale militia-men who act as factory guards.

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